

## News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

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## SALEM COUNTY FREEHOLDERS APPOINT PLANNING DIRECTOR

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Beth Timberman, Chair of the County Planning and Transportation Committee, today announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders created the position of Planning Director at their July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Louis Joyce of Alloway Township was appointed into this post for a three year term at a salary of \$80,000.

"We have been spending well over \$120,000 for contracted planning services through Thomas Committa and Associates," said Timberman. "Our goal in creating this position is to save money and increase services. We will no longer have to pay for the contracted services that provided a planner one day a week; now we will have our own planner every day of the week. This will help the County move forward on preservation efforts while pursuing planned growth. We will now be able to provide more assistance to our municipalities who currently do not have full-time planners."

Mr. Joyce will oversee a newly reorganized Department of Planning and Agriculture which was announced in Deputy Director Lindenmuth's State of the County Speech in January.

"While the Freeholders share your concern with preserving farmland and keeping taxes low, we also know that we need to ensure that we are also preserving the farmer so that we can remain the Garden Spot of the Garden State," said Deputy Director Lindenmuth in his January address. "Accordingly, we are broadening the mission of the Planning Department to support our preservation efforts. The new Department of Planning and Agriculture's mission will be to preserve farmland and open space, support our farmers in their efforts to remain competitive in a changing world, and to responsibly plan Salem County's development through assistance to our municipalities and advocacy to the State and Federal Government."

Mr. Joyce brings over 20 years of public sector experience to the position as Salem County Planning Director, beginning with his position as an Environmental Planner with the Cape May County Health Department. He has held positions in Cape May, Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester Counties. His background includes Executive Director of the Gloucester County Improvement Authority, the Township Administrator of Upper Deerfield Township, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Bridgeton and planner for a number of local communities. His experience with the

private sector as a planning consultant has included work on COAH and affordable housing issues, economic development, redevelopment projects, grant writing, Center Designation and Plan Endorsement and he is very familiar with the NJDEP regulatory processes in the State.

"The Board of Chosen Freeholders has expressed a clear vision of their goals for preservation of the rural character of Salem County and their commitment is embodied in the success of the Farmland Preservation effort," said Joyce. "The Freeholders have also expressed their concern that there is a balance of economic growth and preservation. I look forward to working with the Board to achieve the goals and vision for Salem County."

Mr. Joyce will assume the duties of County Planning Director commencing on August 11, 2008 and will report to County Administrator Earl Gage. The County Planning Department is currently located in the County Administration Building, but will be moving out to the facility in Mannington before the end of the summer.